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*Press Release***

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15-6 Investigation into release of information

Fort Polk, La. -- An Army Regulation 15-6 investigation is ongoing at Fort Polk to determine the facts surrounding the release of contractor competition-sensitive information involving two Fort Polk employees.

Background:

On or about April 30, 2002, a Fort Polk employee sent an email to another Fort Polk employee. The employee sending the email was a member of the Source Selection Advisory Council (SSAC) on the pending Fort Polk whole-base Commercial Activities (OBM Circular A-76) cost comparison study. The SSAC reviews the Source Selection Evaluation Board's (SSEB) evaluation of both the government and contractor bids, and briefs the results with comments to the Source Selection Authority (SSA). The employee who received the email was a member of the Fort Polk Management Study Team which prepared Fort Polk's workforce most efficient organization (MEO) and overall submission. At the time of the email, portions of Fort Polk's bid were still under revision as a result of Army Audit Agency review.

The incident involved the release of contractor competition-sensitive information to an employee working on the Fort Polk Most Efficient Organization proposal. It did not involve release of MEO-sensitive information to contractor personnel.

A contractor was tentatively selected to perform support work at Fort Polk as a result of a Commercial Activities (OMB Circular A-76) Study that determined the most efficient means of accomplishing the support functions now performed by the government workforce. Since the release of information involved contractor sensitive information, it would not have benefited the contractor in its bid against the government proposal.

Management Actions:

When Fort Polk management and the FORSCOM A-76 Contracting Officer became aware of the situation, the employee who received the email was directed to immediately recuse himself from all involvement in the A-76 process. The employee who sent the email was removed from his position on the SSAC.

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An Army Regulation 15-6 investigation was appointed to determine the circumstance of the release and what affect it may have had on the competitive process.

Both employees have been placed in a paid non-duty status pending the outcome of the investigation. This status is not the result of a disciplinary action but intended to aid in the quick and efficient resolution of the investigation.

Fort Polk management and the Commanding General remain committed to ensuring a fair A-76 process and the integrity of the process. The rights of the Fort Polk workforce and the bidding contractor will be protected.

Status of Investigation:

The investigation is ongoing. It is Fort Polk policy not to comment on ongoing investigations.

Army Regulation 15-6 investigations gather and consider all the relevant evidence about an incident, possible misconduct, or a failure to adhere to regulations or policies. The primary function of any investigation is to ascertain facts and to report them to the appointing authority. It is the duty of the investigating officer or board to ascertain and consider the evidence on all sides of each issue, thoroughly and impartially, and to make findings and recommendations that are warranted by the facts and that comply with the instructions of the appointing authority.

When completed, the investigation will go to the appropriate government officials for consideration of and decision on any appropriate actions concerning the contracting process and/or the employees involved.
